

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:109
ANSWERED ON:05.07.2004
EXTINCTION OF BIRDS
Paraste Shri Dalpat Singh

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether more than 1000 species of sparrows are on the verge of extinction as per the reports released by the Bird Life International;
- (b) if so, the details thereof and the reasons therefor;
- (c) whether every Eighth bird of each and every species of the world is on the verge of extinction as per the category-wise data issued by the State of the World's Birds-2004-2005 ;
- (d) if so, the reasons therefor ;
- (e) whether suggestions have been received from the experts in this field to prevent their extinction; and
- (f) if so, the details thereof and the further action taken to prevent their extinction ?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA)

(a) to (d) As per the 'State of the World's Birds 2004' available on the web-site of Bird-Life International, a United Kingdom based international organization, many common birds are in decline in many parts of the world. The 2004 assessment concluded that 1211 bird species (12.4 percent of the extant species, or one in eight) are globally threatened with extinction. These comprise 179 species classed as critically endangered, 344 species assessed as endangered and 688 listed as vulnerable. There are particularly high proportions of threatened species among albatrosses (95 percent), cranes (60 percent), parrots (29 percent), pheasants (26 percent) and pigeons (23 percent).

The report has, inter-alia, cited the following reasons for the decline in the population:

- (i) Habitat destruction.
- (ii) Expanding agriculture
- (iii) Intensification of agriculture
- (iv) Unsustainable farming
- (v) Infrastructure development
- (vi) Pollution
- (vii) Unsustainable exploitation of many bird species
- (viii) Spread of alien invasive species
- (ix) Climate change.

(e) & (f) The experts have suggested that the species can be saved from extinction through various measures including :

- (i) Intensive habitat management
- (ii) Reduction in biotic pressure
- (iii) Ecological restoration of degraded habitat
- (iv) Ecological networking of Protected Areas.

(v) Legislation for conservation of bio-diversity, protection of habitat and prevention of poaching and illegal trade.

Necessary action in this regard has already been initiated at the global level through international agreements and initiatives concerning environmental protection and bio-diversity conservation.